



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOOTHILL UPPER,

FOR THE YEAR

1902.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOOTHILL UPPER,

For the Year 1902.

To the Sanitary Committee of the Soothill
Upper Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation, and Progress of the District.

The area of the District is 1,897 acres, and the population, at the last Census, was 6,104, but now estimated at 6,336.

Number of inhabited houses.

Population.

1891	1901	1902	1891	1901	1902
1233	1329	1445	5848	6104	6336

Increase since last Census in the number

of inhabited houses 116

Increase in the population 232

Average to each house 4·385

The increase in the population and inhabited houses for the last two years nearly equals that for the previous ten years.

The births for the year amounted to 166, 85 males and 81 females, giving a birth rate of 26·2 per 1,000, against 26·0, 27·5, and 24·6 in the three previous years. While the birth rate in this district is being maintained, it is much below the birth rate for England and Wales—28·6.

The deaths for the year amounted to 88, 50 males (including one belonging to the district which died out of it) and 38 females, giving a death rate of 13·88 per 1,000, against 16·0, 15·7, 12·48, 17·8, 17·1, and 18·3, respectively in the six previous. The death rate is therefore well below the average, and has only been once lower in the last seven years.

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	..	...	...	23
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
5 „ „ 15 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
15 „ „ 25 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
25 „ „ 65 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
65 „ upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
							88

The deaths in the first five years are less by 9 than the previous year hence the lower death rate, because the deaths in these years generally determine the death rate. During the first year of their existence 23 died which is equal to 138 per 1,000 of the children born, against 157, 108, and 101 in the three preceding years. From 5 to 25, only 8 died. 65 and upwards 18 died, 10 of these ranging from 70 to 93 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Debility	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inanition	...	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Found Dead (inquest)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	..	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Congestion	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	2
Retropharyngeal Abscess	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis Pulmonum	...	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Urinary trouble	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inquests	...	...	...	...	...	9
Brights...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hepatic	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	24
						88

The deaths from Zymotic diseases are included under Measles, Diphtheria, and Diarrhœa, and are equal to a rate of '78 against 2'9, 1'8, 1'4, and 3'6 respectively in the four preceding years. Phthisis death rate 1'89 against 1.1, '77, and 1'5 in the three preceding years. Respiratory diseases 2'5 against 3'4, 3, 2'18, and 5 in the four preceding years.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1902.

1902.	England and Wales.	76 great towns.	103 other great towns.	England and Wales less the 179 large towns.	Soothill Upper.
Birth rate ...	28'6	—	—	—	26'2
Death rate ...	16'3	17'4	15'3	15'3	13'88
Zymotic death rate ...	1'64	2'12	1'53	1'14	'78
Infantile mortality (per 1000 Births) ...	133	145	135	119	138

The following table of Infectious Diseases reported will give an idea of the comparative health of the district.

INFECTIOUS CASES REPORTED IN 1902.

LOCALITY.					Typhoid.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.
High Street	...	...	...	...	1	2			3
Shaw Cross	...	...	...	...		9			9
Chidswell	...	..	...	...		1			1
Bromley Street	...	...	...	...		1			1
Nursery Wood	...	...	...	...	1				1
Bromley Road	...	...	...	...		2			2
Grange Road	...	...	...	...	1	1			2
Royd Street	...	...	...	...	1			1	2
Oakfield Terrace	...	...	...	...		1			1
Sugar Lane	...	...	...	...				1	1
Kirkgate .	...	...	...	...	1				1
Oaks Road	...	...	...	...			1		1
France's Buildings	...	...	...	...		1			1
TOTAL					5	18	1	2	26

During the year, 26 cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported, against 22, 24, 69, and 96 respectively for the four preceding years. At this point it is worthy of note that the number of Infectious cases reported has diminished for the last few years, even before the Infectious Hospital has come into use.

Small Pox, no case occurred during the year.

Scarlet Fever, 18 cases reported, no death.

Enteric 5 cases ,, no death.

Diphtheria 1 case ,, 1 death.

Erysipelas 2 cases ,, no death.

I find from my notes that in February, vaccination and re-vaccination were active in this district, owing to 3 cases of Small Pox occurring in Dewsbury, and 3 in Batley.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent in July, the 18 cases were distributed all over the district, the type was mild and without a death.

Enteric, less this year than perhaps any previous year. There were only 5 cases, far apart, all over the district.

Diarrhœa less prevalent—2 deaths, and in children under 1 year.

There were 2 deaths from Measles, but not being notifiable I am unable to say the number attacked. From my notes I find the complaint was prevalent during the months of June and July.

The work of disconnecting the sink-pipes from the house drains goes on; 12 of these have been attended to during the year. 5 existing privies have been re-constructed on modern principles, and 5 Ashpits have been re-constructed and covered in.

Factory and Workshop Act.

This Act throws a great responsibility on the District Council, and a great deal of extra work on the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health. There are 27 Workshops and 19 Factories already found in this district, and when one goes about from one to another he is struck with the science of treating waste products and converting them into something both useful and new. This economy enters even into the waste products in the sanitary conveniences, but the gain is counter-balanced by a slight loss in cleanliness. On the whole I found the Factories well provided with closet accomodation, kept in a good state, mostly on the pail system, but in more recent cases on the water carriage system.

In the workshops, especially the smaller ones, I have pointed out a want of air space and proper ventilation.

46 houses of the cottage class, have been built during the year, provided with 27 privies and 10 water closets. I am glad to see the latter increasing, but I should like to see all new property provided with them and one to each house. There is no overcrowding in the district, and no houses unfit for human habitation.

On the 16th May an inquest was held touching the death of a woman who died in Clay's Buildings, Leeds Road. Unfavourable comments were made at the inquest against the dwelling as to its sanitary condition. I reported to the Council on the 2nd June that there was some dampness, due to surface water which was easily remedied and required whitewashing, otherwise the place conformed with the Sanitary requirements.

The work of the Joint Hospital goes on steadily and satisfactorily but it will be some time before the place is ready for regular occupation. Still, if an epidemic arose temporary convenience could be made almost immediately.

The water supply has been good and continuous, and no case of lead poisoning has been reported to me during the year, nor has any case of arsenical poisoning come under my notice.

Smoke abatement—Nothing has been done in this matter. I consider it is a work for the County, as you cannot get local authorities to agree to do what is best. A smoke board might be established on the same lines as a Rivers board.

Slaughter houses should be registered and licensed so as to have a more complete supervision.

The Phthisis death-rate has been higher this year than last, in fact, higher than for many years past. I do not advocate that the Council join the West Riding Sanatorium for Consumptives, as I know the ratepayers will be struggling to get the Joint Hospital for other Infectious Diseases started off; but I do advise the Council when passing plans, to encourage as much bed room as possible. There is a space on the top of the house usually shut up which could with little extra expense be extended into an attic for sleeping purposes. In this way you are encouraging sanatoria at home for the prevention of consumption.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BEATTIE, M.D.,

Dewsbury,

Medical Officer of Health.

31st March, 1903.

TABLE 1.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1895	6021	185	30·7			124	20·59
1896	6170	199	32·2	25	125	113	18·3
1897	6248	180	28·8	31	172	107	17·1
1898	6327	157	24·8	21	133	113	17·8
1899	6408	158	24·65	16	101	80	12·48
1900	6489	166	25·8	18	108	95	14·7
1901	6103	159	26	25	157	98	16
Averages for years 1892—1901.	6252	172	27·5	22·6	132	104	16·7
1902	6336	166	26·2	23	138	88	13·8

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 1897.
Total population at all ages, 6,104. Number of inhabited houses, 1392. Average number of persons per house, 4·385.

TABLE 2.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1895	6021	185	124	
1896	6170	199	113	25
1897	6248	180	107	31
1898	6327	157	113	21
1899	6408	158	80	16
1900	6489	166	95	18
1901	6103	159	98	25
Averages of Years 1892 to 1901. }	6252	172	104	22.6
1902	6336	166	88	23

TABLE 3.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under I.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...							
Cholera ...							
Diphtheria ...	1	1					
Membranous croup ...							
Erysipelas ...	2				1	1	
Scarlet fever ...	18	1	6	8	2	1	
Typhus fever ...							
Enteric fever ...	5				1	4	
Relapsing fever ...							
Continued fever ...							
Puerperal fever ...							
Plague ...							
Totals ...	26	1	7	8	3	6	
						1	

TABLE 4.

Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Small-pox							
Measles	2	1	1				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping-cough							
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	1		1				
Croup... ..							
Diarrhœa	2	2					
Enteritis							
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Other Septic Diseases ...							
Phthisis	12			2	2	7	1
Other Tubercular Diseases...							
Cancer, Malignant Disease...	2					2	
Bronchitis	12	6	2			3	1
Pneumonia	3		1			1	1
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory							
Organs	1	1					
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of Liver }							
Venereal Diseases							
Premature Birth	4	4					
Diseases and Accidents of							
Parturition	1				1		
Heart Diseases	2					2	
Accidents	1				1		
Suicides							.
Diabetes	2						2
Urinary	1						1
Influenza	5		2			1	2
Injuests	9	1	1			7	
Bright Diseases	3					3	
Hepatic	1					1	
All other causes	24	8	1	1	1	2	10
All causes	88	23	9	3	5	29	18

TABLE 5.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF WORK executed and other matters carried out in the Sanitary Department,
for the Year ended December 31st, 1902.

No. of water leakages and defective water pipes and fittings found and notices served.	13	20 Yds.	No. of private drains laid and connections made with sewers.	13	12	No. of sink pipes altered and disconnected from house drains.	No. of nuisances abated by request only.	16	10	Nil.	2 in hand at close of year.	14	Nil.	46	27	2	No. of existing privies reconstructed on model principle.	5	5	No. of existing ashpits reconstructed and covered in.	No. of loads of ashes, &c., removed from ashpits throughout the district.	Average No. of times each ash-pit emptied during the year.
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Shaw Cross,
nr. Dewsbury,

JNO. BLACKBURN,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

March 24th, 1902.

